

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 9, indicated as allowable at page 4 of the Official Action, has been placed in independent form. Claim 10, which relates to a more narrow tensile product ratio (500 to 15,000 kgf/cm) is thus also allowable, and this claim has been amended to depend on allowable Claim 9. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter herein.

With regard to withdrawn Claims 1-6 and 15-20, these claims are not method claims. Instead, these claims were previously amended such that they are now polishing pad claims, and all depend either directly or ultimately on the polishing pad of rejected Claim 7. Thus, these claims should be considered together with Claims 7-13. Simply put, if Claim 7 is allowable so are Claims 1-6 and 15-20 since these claims contain all of the limitations of allowable Claim 7.

Claims 7, 8, 11, 12 and 14 are allowable over the combination of Hudson and Shukla optionally in view of Hasegawa.

As recognized at the top of page 3 of the Official Action, Hudson fails to disclose water-soluble particles having an average particle diameter of 10 to 90 microns as required in pending Claim 7. Shukla has been newly provided to make up for this deficiency.

However, Shukla does not disclose water-soluble particles that fall within the claimed range of from 10 to 90 μm . Rather, Shukla discloses a lens polishing pad whose polishing layer is prepared using a water-soluble polymer layer *as a matrix* in which cerium oxide polishing particles are dispersed. See the paragraph bridging columns 2 and 3 of Shukla. The fact that the water-soluble polymer acts only as a binder or matrix in Shukla is made explicit at column 4, lines 37-40 of the reference where it is stated that “[i]t has been found that a particularly suitable water soluble binder or matrix 32 can be produced by combining an acrylic latex or the like, with a complex of ... (emphasis added),” this binder or matrix 32

being depicted quite clearly in Figure 2 as having embedded therein cerium oxide polishing particles 31:

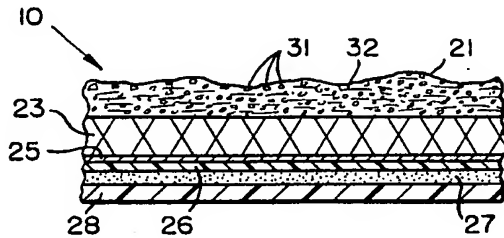


FIG. 2

Thus, Shukla does not make up for that lacking in Hudson: that is, Shukla does not disclose water-soluble particles having an average particle diameter of up to 50 microns. Hasegawa similarly fails to make up for that lacking in Hudson, and thus the combination of Hudson, Shukla and Hasegawa fails to present a *prima facie* case against the claims.

Accordingly, and in view of the differences between what is claimed and what is disclosed in the references, Applicants respectfully submit that all of pending Claims 1-20 herein are allowable. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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